

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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Sub
a1
1. A method for grouping a series of images stored in a digital camera, the digital camera including a view finder for displaying a plurality of the image cells, where each of the image cells corresponds to one of the stored images, a navigation control button for positioning a highlight area around one of the plurality of image cells, and one or more function keys, the method comprising the steps of:

- 10
- (a) assigning a mark function to one of the function keys, such that in response to the user pressing the assigned mark function key, the image cell currently highlighted is marked to provide a marked image;
 - (b) repeating step (a) to create a group of marked images; and
 - 15 (c) assigning at least one group function to one of the function keys, such that in response to a user pressing the assigned group function key, the group of marked images is collectively manipulated by the user.

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Sub
C2
2. A method as in claim 1 wherein step (c) further includes the step of:

- (c1) providing a view function as the at least one group function, such that in response to a user pressing the assigned view function key, each of

the marked images is displayed sequentially in the view finder without manual intervention.

5 3. A method as in claim 1 wherein step (c) further includes the step of:

(c1) providing a save function as the at least one group function, such that in response to a user pressing the assigned save function key, a permanent group of images is created by saving each of the marked images in a folder.

10 4. A method as in claim 1 wherein step (c) further includes the step of:

(c1) providing a slide show function as the at least one group function, such that in response to a user pressing the assigned slide show function key, a permanent group of images is created by saving each of the marked images in a file.

20 Sub a2 5. A method as in claim 1 wherein step (c) further includes the step of:

(c1) providing a duplicate function as the at least one group function, such that in response to a user pressing the assigned duplicate function

key, each of the marked images are duplicated, and if no images have been marked, then the image cell currently highlighted is duplicated.

5 6. A method as in claim 1 wherein step (c) further includes the step of:

(c1) providing a delete function as the at least one group function, such that in response to a user pressing the assigned delete function key, each of the marked images is deleted, and if no images have been marked, then the image cell currently highlighted is deleted.

10 7. A method as in claim 1 further including the step of:

(d) assigning an unmark function to one of the function keys, such that in response to the user pressing the assigned unmark function key, the mark number is removed from the image cell currently highlighted is unmarked.

15 8. A method for grouping a series of images stored in a digital camera, the digital camera including a navigation control button, one or more function keys, and a view finder for displaying a plurality of image cells, where each of the image cells corresponds to one of the stored images, the method comprising the steps of:

20 (a) positioning a highlight on one of the plurality of image cells in response to a user pressing a navigation control button;

(b) prompting the user to mark the highlighted image cell using a corresponding function key;

(c) displaying a mark indication in the highlighted image cell in response to the user pressing the corresponding function key;

5 (d) repeating steps (a) through (c) to provide a group of marked images.

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C5

of:

9. A method as in claim 8 wherein step (c) further includes the step

10 (c1) providing a mark number as the mark indication.

Sub
A3

of:

10. A method as in claim 9 wherein step (c) further includes the steps

15 (c1) prompting the user to select one of the functions of saving the group, deleting the group, and creating a slide show from the group using corresponding function keys; and

(c2) saving the group, deleting the group, and creating a slide show from the group in response to the user pressing the appropriate function keys.

20 11. A method as in claim 10 wherein step (c) further includes the step of:

(c3) prompting the user to unmark the highlighted image cell using a corresponding function key; and

(c4) removing the mark number in the highlighted image cell in response to the user pressing the corresponding function key.

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12. A method as in claim 11 wherein step (a) further includes the step of:

(a1) prompting the user to duplicate the highlighted image cell using a corresponding function key; and

10 (a2) duplicating the highlighted image cell in response to the user pressing the corresponding function key.

13. A digital camera device comprising:
a memory device coupled to said digital camera device for storing sets of
15 image data;

a memory manager for allocating storage locations within said memory device to store said sets of image data;

an interface coupled to said memory device whereby an external host computer can access said sets of image data stored in said memory device;

20 a user interface for displaying a plurality of image cells corresponding to the image data, the user interface including a plurality of function buttons, and means for highlighting the plurality of image cells;

means coupled to the memory manager for assigning a mark function to one of the function keys, such that in response to the user pressing the assigned mark function key, a mark number is displayed in the highlighted image cell such that in response to the user repeatedly highlighting images cells and pressing the assigned mark function key, a group of marked images is created; and

means coupled to the memory manager for assigning at least one group function to one of the function keys, such that in response to a user pressing the assigned group function key, the group of marked images is collectively manipulated by the user.